



THINK of Easter as a dawn:
The flushing skies,
The passing cloud,
The feeling of a sorrow gone,
A presence pure and gentle-browed.

There comes the bloom of morning rays,
There comes the dawn of gladness,
And down the dew-begirted ways
The god of summer enters in.

The past is but a shriveled leaf,
A written scroll to fade away,
With all it held of joy or grief
Merged in the glory of to-day.

Sweet hope goes down into the tomb
And takes from death a grander life,
Joy rings across the vale of doom,
And peace is gained by every strife.

II.
The egg expands its pulsing wings,
The twig awakens into flowers,
And from the soul of man there springs
The perfect age of fullest powers.

Over and over all is told,
The stars their orbits still repeat,
Season to season buds unfold,
And worlds and atoms meet and meet.

There is no loss, there is no gain;
There is no waste of time or force;
And every act and thought and pain
Are meeting points in nature's course.

And death is not the very rocks
Await the resurrection morn;
And fire or storm or change unlocks
The old, and thus the new is born.

III.
So may we live in perfect trust,
And in the tempest stand serene,
For God will re-create the dust
Through countless ages intervene.

The wrong shall vanish in the right,
The evil melt into the good;
For as the day includes the night,
The false is true when understood.

Thus all is rounded in a song—
The song of hope, the song of youth,
The music of a mighty throng
On the eternal hills of Truth.

O Spirit of the Easter time,
To all the sweet assurance give,
And swell the sound in voice and chime:
"Though ye be Dead, yet shall ye Live."
—Richard Low Dawson, in Chicago Tribune.

AT EASTER TIME.

Fresh air through the heaven are blowing,
Soft vapors melt in the blue;
In music the streams are flowing,
And the world is clothed anew.

Life everywhere is waking,
And winter's robe is done;
Out of their prison breaking,
The flowers laugh in the sun.

O look abroad! O listen!
Sweet songs are in the skies;
God makes earth glow and glisten
Like the fields of Paradise.

O the delight before us
As the fair days onward glide!
The birds' delicious chorus,
The splendor far and wide.

From the grass that is stealing slowly
To mantle the meadows in green,
From the crocus springing lowly
Where the golden daffodils lean.

To the rainbow's delicate glory
Spanning the vast of the sky,
'Tis the same old heavenly story
Of beauty that cannot die.

Give thanks for the Easter gladness
With humble and grateful hearts;
Forgotten are doubt and sadness,
And the shadow of death departs.
—Celia Thaxter, in N. Y. Independent.



THE TWO MAPLE TREES
OR JOHN HALLOWELL'S EASTER

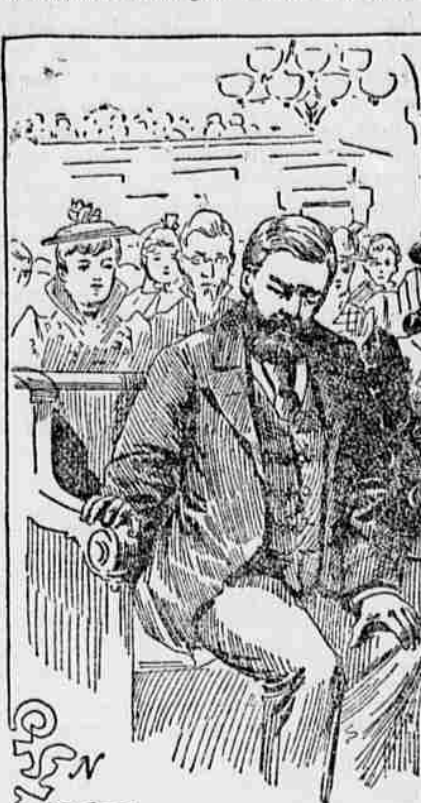
ON the principal avenue of one of the most beautiful suburbs of Boston stood, many years ago, a large, attractive residence, which to every passer-by formed the subject of a careful observation. Its queer architecture and the large and magnificent estate which surrounded it, served to draw one's notice to this stately old mansion. Another object in front of the house attracted even greater attention. This object was nothing more than a plot of ground, right in the middle of the spacious lawn, while in the center of the plot were two trees surrounded by a low iron fence. The first of these trees was a tall, stately maple. The other was also a maple, but it lay flat upon the ground, uprooted, as if by some strong wind, and as it began to show signs of decay, it was forced to the conclusion that it had been lying there for many years. But why was it left there? And why was it so carefully guarded? These were questions which occurred to every one who beheld this prostrate tree, and to which few were fortunate enough to find the answer.

The house and the lands which surrounded it were the home and property of John Halliwell. The land was left to him by his father, but the house he built himself after he had made a fortune by risky but lucky speculation—risky, because he staked every cent of the little capital which he inherited from his father. Had he lost he would have been little better than a pauper. He was also fortunate because he was soon to be married, and he could give his wife an elegant home.

Well, he did marry, and he took his beautiful young bride to the home that he had prepared for her at Glenmere. There they lived happy in their love, and when, a few years later, their child was born they called her Dorothy. Mrs. Halliwell's maiden name was Margaret Lyford. She had an adopted brother, Richard, the orphaned son of a very distant relative of Margaret's father. As Richard—he was more commonly called "Dick"—came into the family when but a mere child, the two children had become as much endeared to each other as if they were actually brother and sister. They grew up together, and three years before Margaret married John Halliwell, Dick wedded Mary Thornton. This young wife was not destined to long enjoy her happiness, for when her son came into the world, she passed out of it, leaving a husband stricken down by a grief from which he never recovered. His life he cared for, but could not live so dearly because he always felt that little Willie's life was poor compensation for his wife's death.

It was not long after the birth of little Dorothy Halliwell that Dick Lyford, broken-spirited and broken-hearted, ended his young life. The little one was left without a home, and it was then that he was brought into the family of John Halliwell. Thus, like her mother, Dorothy had a companion in her childhood.

II.
That was a happy home for six years. Not a shadow crossed the light of happiness of its occupants. When, however, a certain important case compelled John to stay at his law office two or three nights a week for several weeks, the first light white cloud of



DOROTHY PICKED UP THE FALLEN BOOK.

unhappiness appeared on the horizon of Margaret's life, for never until then had he left her for a single night. When she asked him why he stayed so long, and he said that he could not tell her then, the little white cloud became a large, dark cloud of suspicion. And when she heard at last, by an anonymous letter, that the case was in some way connected with a woman to whom formerly he had been engaged, the cloud of suspicion took the black and hideous form of jealousy.

It was a hard blow which this cowardly hand had dealt that happy home, but it did its work well. Poor Margaret was overcome by grief and anger, and in her hour of despair she took the step that brought dreariness into two lives for many years after. Where could she go? To whom could she turn? There was only one—her father. He would share her grief.

The wind was howling dimly without, an appropriate accompaniment to the storm that was raging within Margaret's heart. She went to the window and drew up the curtain. The pitchy darkness averted her. The first great drops of a shower were splashed against the window-pane and they startled her. With no light in the room, she stood gazing out into the ominous darkness of the night. A terrible sense of her loneliness was stealing over her, for she knew that her husband would not return for nearly three hours. She was startled from her dream by a flash of lightning, and then the harsh clasp of thunder which followed made her recoil and draw the draperies of the window about her. Another flash soon followed, and by its sudden light she saw their carriage coming up the driveway. She started and muttered: "Yes, just the thing." So, turning quickly, she rang the bell for her maid.

"Tell Michael not to unharness yet," she said.

"Yes, madam," replied the maid, with an incredulous stare.

"No. You may rather tell him to be at the porch door in ten minutes."

"Shall I return to you then?"

"No. I do not need your help."

With that the maid withdrew, and Margaret hastened to her room. Throwing on her cloak, she started down the stairs, but, remembering the children, she hastened back. The little Dorothy was sleeping in her crib, quietly, peacefully. Stepping up to her, the mother kissed her softly on her cheek and bade her "Good-by, my pet, until to-morrow." Willie had not yet retired, and Margaret said to herself: "Shall I take him with me?"

"Yes." He would be company for her on the ride; and, besides, his grandfather would be glad to see him. So, hastily pulling on his coat and hat, she hustled the astonished boy down to the porch door, where she found the carriage in waiting.

"How far is it to papa's, Michael?" she asked.

"Near seven miles, mum," was the answer.

"Can you drive there and back in two hours?"

"It's a hard night, mum, but I guess I can make it."

"You must get back before Mr. Halliwell returns."

"Sure and I will, mum."

The wind was now blowing such a gale that it was with difficulty that the footman held the carriage door open for Margaret and Willie to enter. Oh! it was a terrible night! The weird shrieking of the wind and the beating of the rain against the roof of the carriage filled Margaret with a sort of vague fear and trembling.

Michael cracked his whip and they were off. Down the driveway that led under the two maples they went. A terrible blast of wind made the trees groan. Another more terrific and—my God, man, hasten for your lives! That's right! Cut your horses with the whip for see! the tree is tottering! Ah, thank Heaven! You are safe now—with a crash the tree falls headlong to the ground.

It seemed hours to Margaret before they reached her father's dwelling, but the ride finally ended, and Michael, leaving his precious load, hastened home again. Poor Margaret, overcome by fear and excitement, fell fainting into her father's arms as he met her on the stairs. Then the fever, the days of delirium, the slow recovery.

It was eleven o'clock before John Halliwell returned to Glenmere. He went directly to his wife's room, but she was not there. Upstairs and down he went, but no one could be found. What did it all mean? He rang for the servant, and when she appeared he asked her, excitedly: "Where is my wife?"

"I don't know, sir, Michael drove out

denly she stopped, took out one, and, quietly, tenderly pressed it to her lips. An obstinate tear would persist in trickling down her cheek. She raised her hand, and dashed it away, but moist eyelids betrayed her, and her father asked: "Why, little one, what can be the matter?"

"Oh, nothing much, papa," she replied.

"But I must know," he persisted. "I do not like to see my little girl with tears in her eyes."

"I was looking at mamma's picture and wishing—"

"Wishing what?" he interrupted, his lip quivering.

"That the good Lord would send her back to us." And Dorothy burst into a flood of tears.

"Don't cry, Dot. Don't cry like that. We must be brave, dear, and perhaps it will come out all right. Come, put on your hat and we will go for a walk."

"No, papa, let us go to vespers at St. James' instead."

"All right," he said, "if you prefer it."

Arriving at the church they were ushered to a pew, the sole occupant of which was a lady, closely veiled and dressed in black. Dorothy imagined that she saw her start when they entered, but John did not notice it, though his seat was beside that of the strange woman. They arose to read the psalm and she passed her book to John. The last verse particularly impressed him: "I have gone astray like a lost sheep; seek Thy servant; for I do not forget Thy commandments."

Then they resumed their seats and John ran his fingers carelessly through the leaves of the book. Suddenly he started and grew pale. The book fell from his trembling hand. He glanced quickly at the woman who had passed it to him, but her hand was raised in the peaceful attitude of prayer. Dorothy picked up the fallen book, and she, too, started as she saw on the title page the name: "Margaret Lyford Halliwell, from her husband, Easter, 18—"

John was agitated with the desire to know whether or not this woman by his side knew anything about his wife. He went through the service in a mechanical sort of way. The woman in black had not thus far allowed her voice to be heard. Finally they all knelt for confession, and with a wildly beating heart, Halliwell recognized the trembling voice as it said: "We have left undone those things which we ought to have done; and we have done those things which we ought not to have done; and there is no health in us."

Oh! the anguish, the longing of his heart. He could not control himself; and, still kneeling, he leaned toward her, and, with a stifled sob, whispered: "Margaret—forgive."

She could not speak; but taking her hand from the top of the railing in front of her, she laid it in that of her husband. This was her only answer; but John knew its meaning and he pressed it passionately, tenderly.

The service being finished, they left the church together. At the door Margaret was met by a tall, fine-looking young man. "What! No. Why, yes it is!" he exclaimed to himself, as he saw them coming. "If it isn't Dot Halliwell and her father—with mamma, too! What can it all mean?" John shook his hand silently, heartily, as they met. This was no place for explanations, so they hastened to leave the throng.

There was room for but two in Margaret's carriage, so Will Lyford (for the young man was none other than he), gracefully resigned in Halliwell's favor. As for Dorothy and himself, they much preferred to walk; and so, when the carriage had passed out of sight, they turned their steps toward Glenmere.

Mutual explanations and mutual forgiveness were the happy results of the homeward ride of Margaret and her husband. It was all arranged before they parted that she should assume her former position as mistress at Glenmere. But she had so many business affairs to arrange, and so much to do before closing up the house, that Saturday night arrived before Margaret, with her father and Will Lyford, came to live again at her former home; though it may be said, by the way, that since the previous Sunday Will had spent the most of his time there. His many years of separation from Dorothy had made him realize that he was far, very far from being her brother, and now that they were brought together again, he found that his affection for her had taken a new and deeper turn.

The next day was Easter Sunday. Dinner having been finished, Halliwell and his wife strolled out together, and their steps led toward the front of the house. Margaret stopped abruptly as her eyes fell upon the fallen trees. At first it puzzled her, but suddenly she remembered and a pained expression crossed her face. "Have it taken away, John," was all she said.

He caught her to his arms. "Yes, dear," he said, "we will bury the past. To-day shall be my Easter. We will look to the future and both rejoice in our resurrection of love."

If just at this moment we could have looked inside the house, we might have seen Dorothy and Will in a similar attitude. There was a new-born, not a resurrected love; but their happiness was none the greater.

As the years roll on and the holy day returns, it brings joy and praise into many hearts. But to none is it a day of greater gladness and thanksgiving than to the four who always bless the anniversary of John Halliwell's Easter.—Charles Emerson Cook, in Boston Budget.

Resurrection.

Through the length of the year the grave must take.

"Tis the Easter earth that can only give:
Then bury the meaner self, and wake
To the life that the nobler self may live.

Before the dawn of the Easter sun
Hide deep in the mold the dearest sin,
The unloved life or the wrong begun:
Let the shades lie right once more begun.

Bury the pride that has sprung from naught,
The envy and hate of a blackened heart,
Arise to the Christ-life purely fraught
With love as white as the Easter flower.
—M. A. De Wolfe Howe, Jr., in Youth's Companion.

WORK OF THE LEGISLATURE.

Proceedings of the LXXth Session of the Ohio General Assembly.

COLUMBUS, March 8.—Senate.—The senate passed a bill which provides for the appointment of an inspector of plumbing and two assistants in cities of the third grade of the first class and in cities of the first grade and second class. The senate also passed a bill which looks to an improvement of county roads, to authorize township trustees to increase the levy for road purposes one mill, when such increase is to be paid for in labor. Other bills passed: Requiring county commissioners to let all work amounting to \$100 or more by contract; authorizing the county auditor to issue bonds to build a new school house; providing that administrators of estates in Ohio shall reside in this state; fixing the fine for tapping or tampering with light or power wires; and also an imprisonment in the county jail from two to six months or both.

House.—Bills were passed: To prohibit the sale of liquor within one mile of the National Soldiers' Home at Dayton; to provide a state board of dental examiners to be appointed by the governor; the senate amendments to the general appropriation bill and the bill dividing the state into two oil inspection districts were non-concurred in and both went to conference committee. Quite a number of local measures were also passed.

COLUMBUS, April 6.—Senate.—Ex-Gov. Campbell called at the senate chamber to-day and a recess was taken in his honor. He was called to the chair and made a few remarks which were heartily applauded. Bills passed: To authorize Xenia to issue \$8,000 in bonds for street improvements; authorizing township trustees to protect sidewalks in the same manner as municipalities; requiring county commissioners to erect guard rails on the sides of all bridges and embankments of a dangerous height; amending Section 656 by increasing pay of jurors in justices' courts from fifty cents to \$1 per day; supplementing Section 4028 so as to provide for the living one and a half miles from the schoolhouse where they are appointed to attend nearest school; providing a uniform mode of acknowledgments for conveyances of real estate; authorizing the state auditor to issue \$100,000 in bonds for street improvements if approved by a vote of the people. Bills introduced: Providing that one of the assistant state workmen and factory inspectors shall inspect powder mills and dynamite factories; Gov. McKinley appointed and the senate confirmed H. B. Hines as commissioner of the Ohio world's fair commission after the close of the session of the general assembly.

Bills passed: Giving courts of common pleas concurrent jurisdiction with probate courts to hear and determine all cases of persons charged with concealing assets of an estate; for relief of S. R. Bank, treasurer of Lorain county, and his sureties, said officer having lost \$10,000 through the failure of the Paige bank. Proposition to be submitted to a vote of the people authorizing boards of education to purchase for each school in their respective districts, one copy of "Ohio's Historical Collections," to be used as a reference and text book. Senate amendments to the bill authorizing the sale of a section of land in the Paulding county reservation, and the bill authorizing Xenia to issue \$100,000 in bonds to complete the natural gas plant were concurred in.

COLUMBUS, April 7.—Senate.—To-day the governor appointed and the senate confirmed Henry H. McFadden, of Steubenville, as a member of the board of state charities for the term ending in April, 1895; also C. N. Schuele, of Leontonia, as a trustee of the Cleveland asylum for the insane for the term ending in April, 1895. The Paige bank failure is causing much special legislation. The senate enacted two bills into laws, both being made necessary by the failure of the bank. One authorizes the commissioners of Lake county to release the treasurer of Lake county and the other on his official bond from the payment of \$100,000 in the bank failure. If approved by a majority of the people. The other authorizes Painesville township to issue \$25,000 in bonds to meet the deficiency caused by the failure. Bills passed: To provide for the election of an additional judge in the Mahoning-Tribull district, amended so as to include Ashtabula and Franklin county districts; appropriating \$75 to pay H. F. Weybrecht, for expenses in his contest for representative from Stark county; authorizing Butler county to sue \$25,000 in bonds to improve a road; authorizing West Milton to issue \$15,000 in bonds for water works and town hall purposes, if approved by a vote of the people; prohibiting the entering of a horse under false pretenses in a trial of speed; prohibiting individuals, corporations and firms from attempting to procure their employees from belonging to labor organizations; authorizing city councils to grant street-railway companies franchises for a period of ninety-nine years.

House.—A large list of bills of a local nature were passed, being mainly the authorization of various cities to issue bonds for local purposes. No business of general interest was transacted.

COLUMBUS, April 8.—House.—There was a lively row in the house over concurring in senate amendments to Mr. Richards' bill providing for an additional common pleas judge in Portage county. The democrats desired to concur, but the republicans voted to non-concur and send the bill to a conference committee so they could head off the amendments and pass it in the senate without any democratic aid. The democrats refrained from voting and the speaker (Daugherty, of Fayette, in the chair) counted those in the house and not voting to make a quorum. The house was in an uproar and democratic members attempted to secure recognition, but failed. Mr. Brittain moved to reconsider and Mr. Winn demanded the yeas and nays. A viva voce vote was then taken without regard for the demand for yeas and nays. The confusion was so great that the speaker broke his gavel in attempting to restore order. Mr. Winn attempted to secure recognition to demand a call of the house, but the yeas were so taken his seat. Order was finally restored, but very little business was transacted afterwards. Bills passed: Authorizing the commissioners of Butler county to issue \$25,000 in bonds to improve a road. Bills introduced: Appropriating \$15,000 to W. H. H. for his expenses in the Rowley-Veybrecht contest; authorizing city councils to refund bonds before maturity; authorizing counties having a population of less than 10,000 to levy a tax of one and a half cents per capita for farmers' institutes.

Senate.—Bills passed: To change the name of the Eclectic Insane Asylum to that of the Ohio Hospital for Epileptics and Maniacs; the rules for admission of patients shall be the same as in other state institutions; amending Section 6145 by providing for damages for the account of death, the person causing such death shall receive no part of the judgment; amending Section 4464 by requiring three persons to ask for a county ditch and that before the work is ordered by the commissioners one-third of the property owners affected shall assent. A number of petitions were read praying for the closing of the world's fair on Sunday, but with them came a petition from Miller Furness, the Farmers' Alliance, asking that the fair be kept open on the Sabbath. The senate reconsidered the vote by which the appointment of Henry H. McFadden, of Steubenville, as member of the state board of charities was confirmed, as there is at present a boycott upon his name.

COLUMBUS, April 11.—Senate.—Senator Lamson introduced a bill in the senate to-day to authorize the board of trustees of the Ohio State university to issue certificates of indebtedness to the amount of \$30,000 to anticipate the tax levy under the Hyssell law, to enable them to complete the building in course of construction. Bills passed: To authorize Tuscarawas county to issue \$20,000 in bonds to build a bridge over the Tuscarawas river at Canal Dover; increasing the general tax levy in cities of the third grade of the second class from 8 to 10 mills; tax Thorpe Vermillion township, Ashland county, to issue \$5,000 in bonds to secure the Sandusky Ashland & Coshocton railroad.

House.—A number of petitions were presented asking for the passage of a bill authorizing the commissioners of Cuyahoga county to participate collections under the act to make and begin work at once; providing for accounting and settlement by treasurers of the money expended for the relief of indigent soldiers, sailors, widows and orphans; allowing county commissioners to maintain a good stock proof hedge fence where guard rails are required, instead of a metal or wooden rail; amending Sections 4460, 4462 and 4463, in relation to ditches, drains and water courses, and the mode of making application to county commissioners for the same; requiring the licensing of stationary engineers throughout the state and providing for a state board of examiners; to make mechanics' liens priority over mortgages without regard to date of record; to facilitate the administration of justice by requiring common pleas judges to hold court on the first Monday of each month; and demurrers and requiring referees, special masters, etc., to report on or before the first Monday of the month following the date of their appointment. Bills passed: Making correction in the law governing dairy and food commission's office; authorizing Toledo to issue \$5,000 in bonds for library purposes; authorizing the county of Richland county, to transfer \$100 from the fire and \$300 from the general to the street improvement fund.



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